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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/750,963	01/05/2004	Hidetoshi Kodama	Q79055	1861

7590 06/23/2006  
SUGHRUE, MION, ZINN, MACPEAK & SEAS, PLLC  
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Washington, DC 20037-3213

EXAMINER

TRAN, LY T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2853

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/750,963

Applicant(s)

KODAMA ET AL.

Examiner

Ly T. TRAN

Art Unit

2853

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on RCE filed 6/1/06.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 33-42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 36 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 33-35, 37-42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114***

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 6/1/06 has been entered.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 33, 34, 37-39, 41 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda (JPH3-49236) in view of Hinson (USPN 6,739,776)

With respect to claims 33, 41 and 42, Ikeda discloses a recording apparatus comprising:

- A recording head, operable to perform a recording operation with respect to a recording medium including a first medium provided as a cut sheet

(Fig.2: element 4) and a second medium provided as a rolled sheet form (fig.4: element 9)

- A first sheet feeder, operable to feed the first medium stacked thereon to a first section in the first direction (Fig.4: element 14)
- A second sheet feeder, adapted to be detachable attached to an upstream end portion of the first feeder relative to the first direction, and operable to feed the first region via the first sheet feeder (Fig.4: element 10).

With respect to claim 34, Ikeda discloses the second medium is fed to the recording section via the first sheet feeder (Fig.4).

With respect to claim 37, Ikeda discloses the first feeder comprised an edge guide member operable to commonly guide side edges of the first and second medium (fig.4: element 8)

With respect to claim 38, Ikeda discloses the second medium is held by the second sheet feeder without a restriction force ((Fig.4: element 10, 9).

With respect to claim 39, Ikeda discloses the second sheet feeder comprises a detachable shaft member adapted to be inserted in a core part of the second medium (Fig.4: element 10) and the shaft member comprises a flange member provided in at least one longitudinal end of the shaft member and formed with at least one flat portion (Fig.4: element 15).

However, Ikeda fails to teach a sheet feeder, adapted to be detachably attached to an upstream edge of the tray section and feed the medium to the recording section in the first direction by way of the upstream edge of the tray section.

Kawai teaches a sheet feeder (fig.1: element 8), adapted to be detachably attached to an upstream edge of the printer section and feed the medium to the recording section in the first direction by way of the upstream edge of the printer section.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the sheet feeder adapted to be detachably attached to an upstream edge of the printer section and feed the medium to the recording section in the first direction by way of the upstream edge of the printer section as taught by Kawai in the recording apparatus of Ikeda. The motivation of doing so is to allow a larger diameter of paper roll to be used.

3. Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda (JPH3-49236) in view of Hinson (USPN 6,739,776), further in view of Ono (JP 408133556A).

Ikeda fails to teach third sheet feeder to feed a third medium in a cut sheet form having a length longer than a length of the first medium.

Ono teaches third sheet feeder to feed a third medium in a cut sheet form having a length longer than a length of the first medium (Fig.1: element 7, 8, Abstract).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the third feeder as taught by Ono. The motivation of doing so is the medium stands are extended completely for longer medium.

4. Claim 40 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ikeda (JPH3-49236) in view of Hinson (USPN 6,739,776), further in view of Edatsune (JP 11321016A).

Ikeda fails to teach the cutter.

Edatsune teaches the cutter (fig.1: element 37).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a cutter as taught by Edatsune. The motivation of doing so is to obtain a desired recording result such as a high quality image can be printed at a low cost and the image has no blank portion.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claim 36 is allowed.

#### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ly T. TRAN whose telephone number is 571-272-2155. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:30am-5pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on 571-272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LT

June 15, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Meier', with a stylized, sweeping flourish at the end.

**STEPHEN MEIER**  
**SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER**